THEME: How do we talk to our kids about safety?

Discussion: Sept 3, 2018 at 10pm ET
Watch along on Paramount Network or BET
Join our Twitter Chat during the broadcast: #TrayvonMartinStory

TWITTER CHAT FEATURED GUESTS:
• Sili Recio, MomsRising, @MyMamihood
• Dr. Jameson Mercier, Mercier Wellness & Consulting and The Trayvon Martin Foundation honoree, @JamesonMercier

DESCRIPTION: The Opportunity Agenda has partnered with Paramount Network to examine the theme of safety and what values are enforced in its name. This guide is meant to assist viewers in processing the content of the Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story docuseries and to spread awareness about the intersection and impact of racism on safety.

QUESTIONS:
1) The Trayvon Martin killing and George Zimmerman’s trial sparked conversations in classrooms and between parents and their children across the country. What about this case made it so resonant?

2) Zimmerman’s defense hinged on the allegation he was assaulted by Martin the night of Martin’s death. Even the prosecution portrayed Zimmerman’s perspective of the alleged fight. What commonly held assumptions does this reveal about race and Black youth?

3) Political analyst Joy-Ann Reid described how Zimmerman’s defense was built on the decision to make 17 year old Martin “seem like the thuggish attacker.” What impact did hearing a teenager being blamed for his own killing have on young people?

4) One of the defense’s witnesses is a White mother whose home had been broken into by Black teenagers. She testified that Zimmerman’s self-appointed vigilantism made her feel safer. What does her story tell us about perceptions of race and safety?

5) Why do you think Zimmerman’s acquittal sparked national protests led by young people?

6) What advice would you give to parents who want to prepare their kids for growing up in a world with systemic racism?